(d) if so, the concrete action taken by the Government to provide protection to domestic edible oil industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No reduction in customs duty on edible oils has been made after the presentation of the budget for the year 1997–98.

(c) and (d) The present rates of customs duty applicable to edible oils have been prescribed taking into account all relevant factors, including the interests of the domestic industry, with a view to ensure the availability of edible oils to the consumer at reasonable prices.

[English]

NTC Losses

514. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish subsidiary offices of NTC to contain loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) There is at present no proposal to abolish any of the subsidiary corporations of the National Textile Corporation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Posts Lying Vacant in Banks/LIC

515. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the state-wise number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are lying vacant in Banks and Life Insurance Corporation;

(b) the action being taken to fill up these posts during the current financial year; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Empowerment of Women

516. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased be state:

(a) whether in the light of the discussions during the debates in both the Houses of Parliament on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of Independence, the Government have taken or propose to take any effective steps for empowerment of women including provision of due representation in legislative bodies as committed by various political parties.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress so far made in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, 1996 which seeks to reserve one-third of the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of every State for women has already been introduced by the Government in the Lok Sabha on 12.9.96. The bill was referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament and the Committee presented its report on 9.12.1996. Government has since accepted all the recommendations made by the Joint Committee.

Income Tax Arrears

517. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
DR. ARVIND SHARMA :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Income Tax arrears outstanding upto June, 1997 alongwith year-wise break up for the last five years;

(b) the details of defaulters who owe arrears amounting to ten lakhs or more;

(c) whether these defaulters have been prosecuted;

(d) if so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts made to recover the arrears and the amount of arrears recovered so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total outstanding demand of Corporation tax and income-tax for the last five years are as under:—

Fin. Years	Total Outstanding Demand (Rs. in crores)
1992–93	9211
1993–94	10780
1994–95	22699
1995–96	28970
1996–97 (Prov.)	33979
1997–98 (Upto June, 97)	33320